

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 AGR-05 STR-04 INRE-00 SSO-00

NSCE-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 EA-06

FRB-03 INR-07 IO-10 NEA-10 NSAE-00 OPIC-03 SP-02

TRSE-00 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 SS-15 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 USIE-00 OIC-02 L-02 (ISO) W

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O R 201630Z MAY 75

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TO SECSTATE WASH DC IMMEDIATE 7118

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, OECD

SUBJECT: DRAFT RESOLUTION AND MANDATE FOR PROPOSED HIGH
LEVEL GROUP ON COMMODITIES

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF DRAFT COUNCIL RESOLUTION ON
ESTABLISHING HIGH LEVEL GROUP ON COMMODITIES TABLED BY
SECGEN AT MAY 20 HEADS OF DELS MEETING AND XCSS CHAIR-
MAN'S (JOLLES) SUMMING UP AT MAY 6-7 MEETING WHICH IS
PROPOSED TO SERVE AS MANDATE FOR GROUP. COVERING NOTE
TO RESOLUTION SUGGESTS THAT COUNCIL MAY WISH TO TAKE
DECISION TO SET UP GROUP "BEFORE OR DURING THE MINI-
STERIAL SESSION".

BEGIN TEXT

THE COUNCIL,

HAVING REGARD TO THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE TENTH SPECIAL
SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, ON 6TH AND 7TH MAY,
1975, (CE/M(75)7(PROV.)).

HAVING REGARD TO THE NOTE BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF
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20TH MAY, 1975, ON POLICIES OF OECD COUNTRIES IN THE

GLOBAL ECONOMIC CONTEXT (C(75)70 FINAL);

DECIDES:

A HIGH-LEVEL GROUP ON COMMODITIES IS ESTABLISHED UNDER THE AEGIS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IN SPECIAL SESSION.

THE COMPOSITION AND THE MANDATE OF THE GROUP IS SET OUT IN THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE TENTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (CE/M(75)7 PROV.), THE RELEVANT PORTION OF WHICH IS ATTACHED HERETO AS ANNEX II.

ANNEX II

CHAIRMAN'S SUMMING UP OF THE DISCUSSION ON ITEM 3 OF THE AGENDA ON INDUSTRIAL RAW MATERIALS AT THE TENTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
"THE DISCUSSION THAT HAS JUST TAKEN PLACE HAS BROUGHT OUT THE USEFULNESS OF GOING MORE THOROUGHLY INTO THE SUBJECT OF COMMODITIES AND OF CONTINUING DISCUSSIONS WITH A VIEW TO BETTER DEFINING THE POLICIES OF MEMBER COUNTRIES AND SEEING TO WHAT EXTENT A CONCERTED APPROACH IS CONCEIVABLE.

TWO ESSENTIAL POINTS HAVE BEEN STRESSED:

FIRST, THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IN SPECIAL SESSION HAS REALIZED THAT THE PROBLEM OF COMMODITIES, WHICH UP TO NOW WAS CONSIDERED SOMEWHAT TOO UNILATERALLY BY THE OECD COUNTRIES FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF DEVELOPMENT, HAS A NEW DIMENSION IF CONSIDERED FROM THE STANDPOINT OF THE ECONOMIC INTERESTS OF MEMBER COUNTRIES, AS IN THE SECRETARIAT'S TWO NOTES. IT HAS BEEN SAID BY A NUMBER OF DELEGATES THAT THIS NEW DIMENSION COULD ALSO SERVE TO INCREASE THE CREDIBILITY OF THE FUTURE APPROACH OF THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES VIS-A-VIS THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, SINCE UNILATERAL INTERESTS WOULD GIVE WAY TO INTERESTS COMMON TO DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. THIS NEW DIMENSION SHOULD HELP TO BRING OUT THE CONVERGENCE OF INTERESTS, WHERE SUCH CONVERGENCE EXISTS.

SECONDLY, MANY DELEGATES HAVE STRESSED THE URGENCY, BOTH ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL, OF TACKLING THIS PROBLEM.
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THE POLITICAL URGENCY EXISTS BECAUSE OF THE INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS WHICH ARE APPROACHING (IN PARTICULAR, THE DISCUSSIONS IN THE SPECIAL SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND IN UNCTAD), WHICH MEANS GIVING A PRIORITY IN TIME TO THE ASPECTS OF THE PROBLEM WHICH HAVE A BEARING ON THESE COMING DISCUSSIONS AND ON THIS DIALOGUE WITH THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. THE ECONOMIC URGENCY EXISTS BECAUSE OF INFLATION, RECESSION, UNDER-INVESTMENT

AND SO ON, WHICH IS WHY THIS COMMITTEE HAS AGREED THAT IT SHOULD GIVE ITSELF A WORKING INSTRUMENT TO DEVELOP AND ACCELERATE ITS WORK IN THIS FIELD. THIS WORKING INSTRUMENT MIGHT TAKE THE FORM OF A HIGH-LEVEL GROUP, AS HAS BEEN PROPOSED BY THE UNITED KINGDOM DELEGATION. THIS GROUP WOULD IN PRINCIPLE BE OPEN TO ALL MEMBER COUNTRIES, AS MANY DELEGATES HAVE SAID THEY WOULD WISH, BUT IT SHOULD BE SO CONSTITUTED AS TO GUARANTEE RAPID

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TRSE-00 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 SS-15 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 USIE-00 OIC-02 L-02 (ISO) W

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AND EFFICIENT WORK. THAT IS TO SAY, ONLY EXPERTS REALLY IN A POSITION TO CONTRIBUTE TO THIS IMPORTANT WORK SHOULD ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN THE DISCUSSIONS. THE GROUP WOULD BE IN DIRECT TOUCH WITH THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IN SPECIAL SESSION, AND IT MIGHT BE SET UP EITHER BY THE MINISTERS THEMSELVES, AT THE MINISTERIAL MEETING AT THE END OF MAY, OR BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IN SPECIAL SESSION, OR BY THE COUNCIL ON THE OCCASION OF THE

MINISTERIAL MEETING. IN ANY CASE, THE SETTING UP OF THE GROUP SHOULD BE CONNECTED WITH THE MINISTERIAL MEETING.

THE MANDATE OF THIS HIGH-LEVEL GROUP SHOULD BE FLEXIBLE AND BROAD, ESPECIALLY SINCE THE GROUP WILL NOT HAVE A COMPLETELY INDEPENDENT EXISTENCE. SINCE IT WILL BE A WORKING INSTRUMENT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IN SPECIAL SESSION, THAT COMMITTEE SHOULD BE ABLE, IF NECESSARY, TO REDIRECT ITS ACTIVITIES AND SUPERVISE THEM FROM TIME TO TIME.
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THE FOLLOWING GENERAL INDICATIONS OF WHAT THE GROUP'S TASKS MIGHT BE HAVE BEEN SUGGESTED, ALTHOUGH THESE IN NO WAY REPRESENT THE TERMS OF A MANDATE IN THE FORMAL OR LEGAL SENSE.

- THE GROUP MIGHT COMPLETE THE ANALYSIS OF THE PROBLEM, ESPECIALLY IN REGARD TO PARTICULAR PRODUCTS OR GROUPS OF PRODUCTS, ON THE BASIS OF THE DOCUMENTATION PROVIDED BY THE SECRETARIAT FOR THE PRESENT MEETING, THE PROPOSAL MADE BY THE BRITISH PRIME MINISTER AT THE CONFERENCE OF COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT AND MENTIONED BY THE DELEGATE FOR THE UNITED KINGDOM, AND ANY OTHER USEFUL ELEMENTS OF INFORMATION SUCH AS THE SPECIFIC DEMANDS AND PROPOSALS OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

- THE GROUP SHOULD VERY RAPIDLY DEFINE THE GENERAL OBJECTIVES OF THE POLICIES TO BE FOLLOWED, BOTH FROM THE STANDPOINT OF SUPPLY AND FROM THAT OF DEMAND. THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS APPROACH HAS BEEN STRESSED BY ONE DELEGATION.

- THE GROUP SHOULD NEXT IDENTIFY THE POSSIBILITIES OF CONCERTED ACTION, BOTH FROM THE OVERALL STANDPOINT AND IN REGARD TO PARTICULAR PRODUCTS OR GROUPS OF PRODUCTS. SPECIFIC ACTION IN RESPECT OF INDIVIDUAL PRODUCTS OR GROUPS OF PRODUCTS WILL BE NECESSARY IN ORDER TO EXAMINE THE FACTUAL DATA ON THE PRODUCTS IN QUESTION, HAVING IN MIND CERTAIN CRITERIA FOR GIVING PRIORITY CONSIDERATION TO ONE OR OTHER OF THESE GROUPS OF PRODUCTS, WHILE TAKING INTO ACCOUNT PAST EXPERIENCE AS A RESULT OF MEASURES WHICH HAVE NOT HAD THE DESIRED EFFECTS.

- THE GROUP SHOULD PLACE THE EMPHASIS ON POSSIBLE ACTION FOR THE MEDIUM AND LONG TERMS RATHER THAN THE SHORT TERM.

- THE GROUP SHOULD TAKE AS ITS POINT OF DEPARTURE
INDUSTRIAL RAW MATERIALS, ON WHICH DOCUMENTATION HAS
ALREADY BEEN PREPARED BY THE SECRETARIAT, BUT IT MIGHT
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ALSO COVER CERTAIN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS OF PARTICULAR
INTEREST TO THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, PROVIDED THAT
THEY ARE NOT ALREADY THE SUBJECT OF IN-DEPTH STUDIES
OR NEGOTIATION IN OTHER BODIES.

WITH REGARD TO THE TIMETABLE OF WORK, IT WOULD BE
DESIRABLE FOR THE GROUP TO PRESENT A PRELIMINARY REPORT
TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IN SPECIAL SESSION, BY THE
NEXT MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE AND PROBABLY BEFORE THE
SUMMER HOLIDAYS, ON THOSE POINTS CONSIDERED TO BE MOST
URGENT IN THE LIGHT OF THE INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS DUE
TO TAKE PLACE IN THE NEAR FUTURE." END TEXT

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COMMODITIES, MEETING AGENDA, RAW MATERIALS, RESOLUTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975OECDP12719
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750177-0441
From: OECD PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750536/aaaabfxd.tel
Line Count: 246
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 MAY 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <14 MAY 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DRAFT RESOLUTION AND MANDATE FOR PROPOSED HIGH LEVEL GROUP ON COMMODITIES
TAGS: ETRD, OECD
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006